

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00327 181003Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
-----040499 181556Z /50
R 180930Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0240
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: VISIT BY INTEGRATED MUSICAL GROUP

REF: STATE 009509

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED MASHIGO ABOUT INTENDED ITINERARY OF PAMOJA EXPERIENCE. MASHIGO SAID THE ONLY BOOKINGS MADE AT PRESENT WERE IN CENTER-CITY LOCATIONS WHERE MULTI-RACIAL AUDIENCES WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE. MASHIGO'S OWN CLUB, THE NEW YORK CITY CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG, IS A LARGE ROCK AND SOUL CLUB CATERING TO MIXED AUDIENCE. BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION IN A NON-ZONED AREA, ACCORDING TO THE GROUP AREAS ACT, THE CLUB CAN OPERATE LEGALLY. MIXED DANCING IS NOT LEGAL BUT DOES GO ON. IN FACT, THE AUTHORITIES IN JOHANNESBURG AT PRESENT OVERLOOK IT. THE CLUB HAS A GOOD REPUTATION AND THERE HAS BEEN NO KNOWN TROUBLE THERE SINCE IT OPENED LAST YEAR. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF RACIAL SOCIAL MIXING, THE CLUB OWNERS ARE PARTICULARLY ADAMANT ABOUT INSISTING ON ORDERLY, RESPECTABLE CLIENTELE.

2. WHILE WE DON'T KNOW THE CLUBS THE GROUP WILL PLAY IN CAPE TOWN, THEY ARE SIMILAR TO THE NEW YORK CITY CLUB.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 00327 181003Z

3. MASHIGO TOLD US THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING BOOKING THE GROUP INTO A SOWETO CLUB BUT HAD NOT YET DECIDED TO DO SO. EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT DOING SO COULD BE TEMPTING FATE. MASHIGO SAID HE WOULD TALK IT OVER WITH THE GROUP ON ARRIVAL.

4. MASHIGO DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE GROUP HAD AS YET BEEN GIVEN SOUTH AFRICAN VISAS. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE TURNED DOWN BECAUSE OF THEY'RE RACIALLY MIXED, BUT SOME SOUL MUSIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN IN THE PAST BECAUSE OF THE CONTENT OF THEIR PERFORMANCES.

5. EMBASSY SEES NO REASON WHY GROUP SHOULD NOT COME. MULTI-RACIAL GROUPS HAVE PERFORMED AT CITY CENTER THEATERS IN SOUTH AFRICA IN THE PAST WITH NO INCIDENTS. THIS WILL BE FIRST TIME IN OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH A GROUP IS PLAYING IN MULTI-RACIAL CLUBS BUT WE WOULD ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTIES. WE WOULD CAUTION MS. BUTLER AND THE GROUP AS A WHOLE, HOWEVER, ABOUT TAKING ENGAGEMENTS IN A TOWNSHIP CLUB. THE TOWNSHIPS, PARTICULARLY SOWETO, ARE TENSE AT PRESENT AND NIGHT-TIME SECURITY IS VERY POOR.BOWDLER

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